

Army Suicide Awareness and Prevention



Every One Matters!

Mission

Minimize Suicides
by
Helping People to Seek help
and
Helping Soldiers to monitor each other
and provide “Buddy Care”.



Objectives:

- * Encourage help-seeking behaviors
- * Become proficient in “Buddy Care”

The Suicide Awareness and Prevention Campaign Plan



**The key to saving a human being
is a human relationship!**

Learning Objectives

- **Identify common triggers of suicide.**
- **Identify risk factors of suicide.**
- **Identify symptoms of depression.**
- **Identify myths about suicide.**
- **Identify warning signs of suicide.**
- **Take appropriate action in response to an
at-risk individual.**



Suicidal Behavior

- **Serious suicidal thoughts or threats.**
- **Self destructive acts.**
- **Attempts to harm, but not kill oneself.**
- **Attempts to die by suicide.**
- **Completed suicide.**



Triggers for Suicidal Behavior

- The breakup of a close relationship
- Witnessing death
- Financial stressors
- A bad evaluation
- Drug or Alcohol Abuse
- Reunion from a long field training or isolated tour
- Leaving old friends and family
- Being alone with concerns about self or family
- New military assignments/deployments



Triggers for Suicidal Behavior

- Recent interpersonal losses
- Loss of self-esteem / status
- Humiliation / Ridicule
- Rejection (e.g., job, promotion, boy/girlfriend)
- Disciplinary or legal difficulty
- Exposure to suicide of friend or family member
- Discharge from treatment or from service
- Retirement



Hopelessness

- Believing all resources to be exhausted
- Feeling that no one cares
- Believing the world would be better off without you
- Total loss of control over self and others
- Seeing death as only means of eliminating pain



Depression

- Difficulty concentrating or remembering
- Loss of energy, or chronic fatigue, slow speech and muscle movement
- Loss of self-esteem
- Change in sleep habits; unable to sleep or wanting to sleep all the time
- Change in weight
- Anxiety



SUICIDE Myths and Facts

- **MYTH: People who talk about suicide don't die by suicide.**
- **FACT: 80% of completed suicides had given definite indications of their intention.**
- **MYTH: Talking about suicide will give some an idea to do it.**
- **FACT: Suicidal people already have the idea. Talking about it may invite them to ask for help.**



SUICIDE Myths and Facts

(continued)

- **MYTH: All suicidal people are fully intent on dying. Nothing can be done about it.**
- **FACT: 95% are undecided about it. They call for help before or after the attempt.**
- **MYTH: Suicide is an impulsive act.**
- **FACT: Most suicides are carefully planned and thought about for weeks.**
- **MYTH: Suicidal people remain suicidal.**
- **FACT: Most are suicidal for only a brief period. Timely intervention may save their lives.**



SUICIDE Myths and Facts

(continued)

- **MYTH: Suicidal persons are mentally ill.**
- **FACT: Most suicidal persons are not mentally ill. Severe emotionally distress is not the same as mental illness.**
- **MYTH: December has suicide the highest rate.**
- **FACT: December has one of the lowest rates. Spring months have the highest.**
- **MYTH: It's not suicide if there is no note.**
- **FACT: Only 1 in 4 suicides leave suicide notes.**



Responding to Statements or Threats

- Stay calm.
- Ask the Question: “Are you thinking of killing yourself?”
- Ensure the person receives help.
- Do not leave person alone.
- “Buy time” (i.e., Identify stressor and reasons for living).



Asking About Suicide

- **Ask directly (i.e., Are you thinking about killing yourself?).**
- **Get help.**
- **Convey concern.**



Stigmas to Help-Seeking Behavior





DANGER

Facing Challenges?

Don't Fight Alone

Don't Let Your Buddy Fight Alone

Summary . . .
Final Comments . .

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Questions . . .

